However, on 2 January 2006, the Spokesman of the Pakistan Army, Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, rejected the reports that Pakistan security forces had used poisonous gas in operations in Balochistan.

(c) Government remains fully vigilant and will take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.

Regional passport office at Kohima

1034. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Regional Passport Office at Kohima;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable;

(c) It has not been possible to open a new Passport office in Kohima due to a variety of reasons including lack of requisite volume of demand for passport warranting opening of a new passport office and also due to manpower constraints.

Arrest of Fisherman

1035. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any agreement, settlement or understanding for not arresting of Indian fisherman (especially from Gujarat) by Pakistan and *vice-versa*;

(b) whether in spite of that Pakistan is repeatedly arresting the Indian fishermen and their vessels and property;

(c) the number of Indian fishermen in Pakistan jails; and

(d) whether Government propose to arrise on any agreement on the lines of agreement with Sri Lanka on this issue?